

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

Hurricane Ophelia

SITUATION REPORT # 6

1400 HOURS September 15, 2005

## WEATHER

### **Forecast:**

*A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect North of the North Carolina/Virginia border to Cape Charles Light Virginia, including the Chesapeake Bay south of New Point Comfort. The following cities and counties are under a Tropical Storm Warning: Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Hampton, Poquoson, Hampton, Newport News and York County. Ophelia is almost stationary 30 miles south-southeast of Cape Hatteras and may remain stationary until midday on Friday. Hurricane force winds extend outward up to 40 miles from the center and tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 140 miles. Minor coastal flooding will be possible along the southern Chesapeake Bay in southeast Virginia. A general storm surge of 1 to 2 feet above normal can be expected in southeast Virginia. Sustained winds to 15 to 20 mph with gust to 30 mph may occur in inland areas and gusts to 45 mph are expected to occur near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay and the coastline areas. Rainfall is expected to occur from 1 to 2 inches over southeastern Virginia.*

## EXECUTIVE ACTION

### **EOC Activation:**

The Virginia EOC is at Hurricane Readiness Condition 1 as of 1700 hours on September 13<sup>th</sup>. For County EOC activations see Protective Actions below.

### **State of Emergency:**

Governor Warner's State of Emergency remains in effect.

### **Protective Actions:**

EOC Activations: City of Chesapeake EOC partially activated as of 1600 hours on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

State of Emergencies: James City County and City of Chesapeake.

Evacuations: Accomack County and the Town of Chincoteague have called for voluntary evacuation of campgrounds.

Schools Closed: None at this time.

### **Fixed Nuclear**

### **Facilities:**

None at this time.

## OPERATIONS SECTIONS

### **State Warning Point:**

Maintaining contact with local Emergency Operation Centers. Checking equipment and supplies as scheduled, reviewing the daily log and developing the staff schedule.

### **Local Liaison:**

Prepared to receive and respond to requests for assistance from the localities and continuing outreach efforts.

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH**

### **Firefighting:**

### **ESF 4**

### **Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP)**

Reviewing weather advisories. Staffing the VEOC. Maintaining contacts with fire resources to monitor availability.

### **Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)**

***Commodity staging area established near Emporia is being managed by 2 DOF personnel. Currently there are 150 trucks of water, 100 trucks of ice and 13 trucks of "Meals Ready to Eat" (MREs) at this location under federal contract. Staffing the ESF4 desk at the VEOC as well as Local Liaison support. Two personnel are staffing the agency's Command Center in Charlottesville and at least 1 person is assisting in each of the agencies 6 regional offices as necessary to assist with crew deployments and support.***

**Health & Medical:  
ESF 8**

**Virginia Department of Health (VDH)**  
***Monitoring weather advisories and reviewing Hurricane Response Plan checklists. Monitoring Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) Taskforce readiness. Reviewing VDH example Public Information Advisories, Fact Sheets and News Releases for possible issuance. Providing ESF8 coverage to VEOC. Maintaining contacts with long term care and hospital facilities on preparatory status.***

**Search & Rescue:  
ESF 9**

**VDEM Search and Rescue (SAR)**  
***Continuing to monitor and maintain ready status of state SAR assets.***

**Public Safety &  
Security:  
ESF 13**

**Virginia State Police (VSP)**  
75 Troopers, 5 Supervisors and swift water rescue team sent to Division 5 Headquarters in Chesapeake. VSP has assigned 16 of 75 to the Eastern Shore, bringing the total number on the shore to 29.

**Virginia National Guard (VNG)**  
***The Emporia Armory mission to secure a tractor-trailer containing generators was cancelled. The generators were redirected to North Carolina.***

78 soldiers from the 276<sup>th</sup> Engineers have been placed on State Active Duty and pre-positioned to respond to Hurricane Ophelia at Norfolk and Onancock armories.

National Guard EOC at Fort Pickett is conducting mission analysis and planning to support a potential request from VDEM and FEMA to assist in distribution of food, water and ice in the event Ophelia makes landfall and causes widespread loss of water and power.

**HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH**

**Agriculture & Natural  
Resources:  
ESF 11**

**Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)**  
**Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC)**  
Food commodities are available in schools and distribution centers. VDACS has identified 6 distribution centers throughout the Commonwealth and checking to determine if distribution centers can transport commodities to affected areas. VDACS could not release food for delivery to North Carolina without USDA approval. Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC) reported that all 3 field kitchens are unavailable due to renovation of permanent feeding facilities; however, 300 cases of Meals Ready to Eat (MRE's) at 12 per case, are immediately available.

**Mass Care:  
ESF 6**

**Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), American Red Cross (ARC), Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)**  
Communicating with local emergency managers and local social services departments to prepare for sheltering if required. Assessing mobile feeding capabilities. Three church kitchens in the Tidewater area have backup generator power and may be able to assist with feeding operations if needed. MRE's/Heater meals are available for immediate feeding needs. Food banks have been put on alert and are reviewing vendor agreements for food. VOAD has assessed the availability of mobile kitchens for mass feeding operations. Baptist General Association of Virginia has placed five mobile feeding units on standby to be placed as needed in Accomack, Newport News and Virginia Beach. The Salvation Army has 2 large fixed kitchens in Norfolk and one available canteen. The Food Bank of Southeast Virginia has four trucks available to haul dry or frozen food housed at the Norfolk Food Bank. Identified 23 "Kid Cafes" that operate out of Girls and Boys Clubs with capability to prepare meals. The Catholic Diocese of Richmond can prepare meals at 2-3 schools, and three large parish approved

kitchen facilities.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH**

**Transportation:** **Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)**  
**ESF 1** Reviewing weather advisories. Providing VDEM with GIS staff support for the next few days. Reviewing hurricane preparedness checklists with emphasis on the Hampton Roads area. Tiger teams are on standby. Will provide resource support as requested.

**Telecommunications & IT:** **Virginia Information Technology Agency (VITA)**  
**ESF 2** *Reviewing weather advisories and maintaining readiness. Completed update of emergency contact information of communications companies. Checked on status of Verizon activities.* Staffing the VEOC. Contacted all partner agencies in tidewater area, through Enterprise Service Director (ESDs) and Service Level Directors (SLDs) and ensuring notification and readiness procedures are properly communicated to them. Monitoring Verizon for outages in the Tidewater area.

**Energy Group:** **State Corporation Commission (SCC)**  
**ESF 12** *Monitoring weather advisories and maintaining readiness. Continuing to monitor terminals, local distributors and power companies.*

## **LOGISTICS SECTION**

**Resource Support:** **VDEM/FEMA**  
**ESF 7** *Confirming availability and updating point of contact for priority resources. Continuing coordination with local government.* Development of a FEMA Assistance Request Form (ARF) for federal assistance to authorize the use of Fort Eustis assets (such as a Local Staging Unit) to establish a transportation link between the mainland and eastern shore Virginia. Mobilization of five statewide staging areas and numerous local distribution areas in Region 5. Sandbagging material is on stand-by. Providing support to the Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT), meals to the EOC staff, replenishing supplies and completing the VEOC staff directory. Preparing to process statewide mutual aid and EMAC requests.

## **PLANNING SECTION**

**Emergency Management:** **VDEM**  
**ESF 5** Continuing to update, produce and distribute daily situation reports and Incident Action Plans. Reviewing tropical storm and general weather conditions and providing analysis. Coordinating with the FEMA planning section. Monitoring conference calls with localities, state agencies and U.S. Coast Guard. Coordinating potential Commonwealth impacts with the National Weather Service (NWS) and the National Hurricane Center (NHC). Analyzing information from available sources and providing briefings to Command Staff, Branch Chiefs, and ESF's. Monitoring Action Tracking entries and providing technical assistance to state agencies and localities as needed.

## **FINANCE SECTION**

**Emergency Management:** **VDEM**  
**ESF 5** Providing reservist availability, processing timesheets, aiding in staffing, tracking expenditures, procuring equipment and supplies for the VEOC and other response locations.

## **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**Public Information:** **VDEM**  
**ESF 15** *Two media calls today. 16 calls to Virginia Public Inquiry Center (VPIC), mostly people wanting to volunteer.* Providing outreach to the media (including Hispanic media) on response to Hurricane Ophelia. Staffing and managing the VPIC. Updating the VDEM website with response and recovery information. Providing local state and public information outreach.

## **LOCAL ACTIVITIES**

**Region I:** No activity.

**Region II:** No activity.

**Region III:** No activity.

**Region IV:** No activity.

**Region V:** Accomack County and the Town of Chincoteague have called for voluntary evacuation of campgrounds. This is a precautionary measure. The localities are not reporting any problems at this time.

**Region VI:** No activity.

**Region VII:** No activity.

### **FEMA**

Emergency Response Team – Advance (ERT-A) from FEMA Region 3 is in place. ***Located at least one facility of appropriate size containing appropriate features (loading dock space, square footage, and some office space) for the Initial Operation Facility (IOF) – Joint Field Office (JFO). Five two-man prime power assessment teams are available with additional support through USACE contractors to assist with critical facility power requirements and solutions. Working to verify 10 low-end generators still located in Atlanta, Georgia for deployment to Emporia, Virginia.***

FEMA USAR Task Forces from Fairfax (Task Force-1) and Maryland (Task Force-1) deployed to Virginia Beach.

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